

I do not want to hear bleeding and caterwauling from the White House or the political mouthpieces from the Department of Justice, asking, Where are the judges. All 50 Democratic Senators will vote for them, as 400 Republicans and Democrats in the House voted for them. It is being held up by an anonymous Republican hold.

The conference report prohibits mandatory arbitration in a motor vehicle franchise contract between manufacturers and automobile dealers, to the same effect as the Hatch-Feingold-Leahy-Grassley Motor Vehicle Franchise Contract Arbitration Act, S. 1140. That legislation has more than 60 cosponsors, Republicans and Democrats. The automobile dealers lobbied strongly for it. All 50 Democrats are ready to vote for it. Their friends on the Republican side are holding it up.

The conference report includes an amendment to the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to expand eligibility for compensation for injured uranium miners, mill workers and ore transporters. Many Senators from western States, on a bipartisan basis, such as Senators DASCHLE, HATCH, JOHNSON, DOMENICI, strongly support these changes. We are all ready to vote for them. Republicans are holding it up.

Finally, the conference report includes several important immigration provisions to help underserved rural areas with a critical shortage of medical doctors. Women die in childbirth. Teenagers in an accident die because they did not get care. Older people do not get the preventive medicine they need. This allows foreign doctors who are educated in the United States to remain here if they will agree to practice in the underserved areas. It extends H-1B status for certain working aliens and makes it possible for children whose sponsoring parent has died to apply for citizenship, nonetheless. I don't need to tell the Presiding Officer, representing the great State of New York, there were children whose sponsoring parents died in this country.

These are all noncontroversial provisions, for all over the country. Every single Democrat Senator said they will vote for it. We cannot bring it to a vote because the Republicans have an anonymous hold. I would not feel as bad about the holds if the Senator holding it up would come forward and state why. Instead, it is a stealth hold. It is a "during the night" hold. It is the quiet, anonymous phone call hold that stops it. It repeats an unfortunate pattern of anonymous Republican holds on bipartisan legislation designed to improve our Nation's national security law enforcement, immigration policies, and judicial branch of the government.

I am sure my colleagues are tired of hearing how much I enjoyed my earlier career in law enforcement. For 8½ years I proudly carried a badge, proudly served as chief law enforcement officer of my county. We prosecuted a lot of people. We saw a lot of tragic situations. We helped a lot of people in cases

of domestic violence, stopped crimes from happening. Those we were not able to stop, we oftentimes successfully prosecuted afterwards. I never recall anyone, either those in my office or any of the law enforcement agencies we talked about, whether we were dealing with a Democrat or Republican, asking whether someone who was beaten or killed was Democrat or Republican. You never asked a police officer if they were Democrat or Republican. No one asked when sending officers out to protect citizens, facing the potential of death, their political party affiliation. In working with my colleagues, both in the Senate and in the House, we did not look at this as Democrat and Republican. We talked about good law enforcement. That is why every single Democratic Senator has said they will vote for this bill.

Our caucus spans the political spectrum. I suspect if we were allowed to bring it to a vote, almost all of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would vote for it, yet an anonymous hold is stopping this help to the law enforcement agencies, ranging from the smallest of our towns to our statewide law enforcement agencies, to our Federal law enforcement agencies. Nobody has spoken of any substantive question or issue of any provisions in this conference report. And there are not any. It passed the Republican-controlled house by 400-4.

It has been suggested the holds are merely partisan blocking to hold up legislative action and then blame the Democratic Senate majority for inaction created by Republican holds. I repeat, as I have over and over again on this bill, I have checked with every single Democrat Senator; we are ready to vote. We are all ready to vote.

If Republicans allowed this bill to come to a vote, it would pass immediately. It should have been passed last Thursday. We had an opportunity. Senator DASCHLE asked permission to pass it—Senator HATCH said we didn't each have to speak on it, we would put our speeches in afterward—asked to pass it by unanimous consent, but was told the Republicans objected.

For the sake of the Justice Department, the Congress, and the American people, we ought to pass it today. Twenty-one years fighting to get it, and here is what is in there: Combating terrorism, improving law enforcement, preventing crime, fighting drug abuse, enhancing intellectual property protection, strengthening the judiciary—adding 20 new judgeships and improving judicial disciplinary procedures—improving civil justice, and improving immigration procedures.

The irony is item after item was worked out with the support of the Bush White House. I spent an awful lot of time on this bill. A lot of my Republican colleagues spent a lot of time on this bill. And our staffs spent 10 times more time on this bill. I think somebody down at the White House, if they take time out from the fundraising and

the campaigning, could take a couple of minutes to pick up the phone and call the party, the Members on the other side of the aisle, and say the criminal justice system needs this, the fight against terrorism needs this.

This is not just something abstract, this is real. Let's pass it. That is why the Republican-controlled House passed it. I am sorry my friends on the Republican side of the aisle are blocking it. I hope when they think about it, they will come to their senses and let it go through.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CLINTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is my understanding we are in a period of morning business; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time for morning business was to have expired at 5:15.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the time be extended until 6:45 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, as we enter our 5th week of debate on this Senate floor on the homeland security bill, I rise today to ponder exactly where we have been, and, perhaps much more importantly, where we are going.

In recent weeks, Democrats and Republicans have made little progress on the bill. Some have identified particular provisions they would like to have changed; some have not. The President offered his own proposal for consideration, and, as the RECORD will reflect, the Senate obliged him by allowing it to come to the floor for consideration.

My good friends, Senator GRAMM of Texas and Senator MILLER of Georgia, are championing the President's bill. He could have no two more noble or respected Senators as his gatekeepers.

Let me describe for you what this bill does. It will establish a new Federal